

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 12226 091935Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SVC-00
/034 W

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R 091646Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3065

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, BG
SUBJECT: S.A.M.S. KIBRIA

REFERENCE: DACCA 4751

1. KIBRIA HAS BEEN ONE OF THE G-77 LEADERS HERE. HIS TALENTS WERE RECOGNIZED WITHIN THE G-77 LEADING TO HIS SELECTION AS G-77 COORDINATOR FOR PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD-V. HE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, AND HAS NATURALLY TAKEN A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MATTERS OF DIRECT INTEREST TO BANGLADESH, SUCH AS JUTE AND DEBT RELIEF. ON THE FORMER TOPIC, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS OPERATED QUITE FREELY, AND IN FACT HAS AT TIMES PUSHED IN DIRECTIONS AT VARIANCE WITH THE GOBD OFFICIAL POSITION. HE HAS BEEN MOST INSISTENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON JUTE, INCLUDING INTERNATIONALLY FINANCED AND COORDINATED BUFFER STOCKS, AND IN PURSUIT OF THIS CAUSE, HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PUSHED MEETINGS TO BRINK OF TOTAL BREAKDOWN. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY PERSONABLE AND DIFFERENCES OF VIEW DURING MEETINGS HAVE NEVER AFFECTED RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE THE MEETING ROOM.

2. WHILE AT TIMES HE HAS BEEN A THORN IN OUR SIDE BECAUSE
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OF HIS STRONG ADVOCACY OF G-77 DEMANDS, MISSION RELATIONS WITH HIM HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND VERY FRIENDLY. (AMBASSADOR VANDEN N FOR# HIM IN TWO WEEKS). HE IS PERSONALLY WELL DISPOSED TO THE U.S. HE WAS A PAKISTAN DIPLOMAT IN THE U.S. WHEN THE COUNTRY SPLIT, AND HAS FAVORABLE MEMORIES OF THE HELP AND ASSISTANCE HE RECEIVED FROM FRIENDS IN THE U.S. DURING THE

EXTENDED PERIOD BETWEEN HIS CEASING TO BE A PAKISTAN
DIPLOMAT AND BECOMING A BANGLADESH DIPLOMAT.

3. AMBASSADOR KIBRIA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS RETURN
TO BANGLADESH BY HIS WIFE, WHO TENDS TO BE SOMEWHAT SHY AND
DIFFIDENT. MRS. KIBRIA IS A FINE ARTIST IN HER OWN RIGHT
AND HAS EXHIBITED A NUMBER OF PAINTINGS IN VARIOUS ART
SHOWS IN GENEVA. THE KIBRIAS HAVE TWO CHILDREN -- A SON,
REZA, WHO GRADUATED THIS YEAR WITH HONORS FROM OXFORD AND
WHO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR GRADUATE WORK AT A CANADIAN
UNIVERSITY, AND A DAUGHTER, NAZLI, WHO JUST GRADUATED FROM
THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN GENEVA AND HAS BEEN ACCEPTED
AT BROWN UNIVERSITY IN RHODE ISLAND. THE KIBRIAS ARE A
VERY CLOSE FAMILY AND THEY ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER THE
IMMINENT PROSPECTS OF THE SEPARATION FROM THEIR CHILDREN
THAT NOW FACES THEM. SORENSON

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 2 GENEVA 12226 AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION
TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

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